

## Cook County youth earn DCFS scholarships

Most students head to college with the basic trappings of books, clothes and a calculator. But these students whose cases are handled in Cook County had a send off that included paid tuition and academic fees at any of the participating Illinois universities and junior colleges, a monthly stipend of \$445 and a medical card for up to four years. The recipients of the 2005 DCFS Scholarship were selected from 218 worthy applicants. Based on their record of academic achievement, their community involvement, and personal successes, the young scholars featured below can now focus on their new path toward a college degree.



### JONATHAN ADAMS

Jonathan, of Glenwood, is a 2005 graduate of Bloom High School where he earned a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 system. He participated in the Student Council and achieved honor roll status last year. Other than academics, Jonathan's primary involvement has been with the Naval Junior Reserve Office Training Corp where he has held officer positions for three years. Holding the rank of Cadet Lieutenant, Jonathan served as the Executive Officer in NJROTC during his senior year of high school. He now attends Eastern Illinois University, majoring in marketing.

Illinois State University, majoring in biology (pre-medicine). Her career goal is to become an obstetrician.



### JENNIFER BERGDAHL

Jennifer, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Carl Schurz High School where she earned a 3.32 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 32nd in her class of 414. She was an honor roll student and was recognized as an Outstanding Book Club member. Her high school activities included the Future Teachers of America Club, Mayor Daley's Book Club, and the Christian Club. She was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and a student election judge. Jennifer volunteered at the Case Central Adult Day Care and the school library. She also served as a writing tutor. Jennifer now attends Northeastern Illinois University, majoring in English-secondary education. She aspires to become a high school teacher.



### SHERLISE BARKSDALE

Sherlise, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Bogan Tech High School where she earned a 3.47 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 55th in her class of 357. Academic awards included the National Honor Roll and Who's Who Among American High School Students. Her high school activities included cheerleading, track, chorus, the yearbook, and the prom committee. Additional high school involvement included the African-American Pride Club, and the Letterman's Club. Sherlise has work experience that includes working at the Chicago Tribune. She is now a student at

*Continued on Page 2*

## Scholarship winners, con't.

### JALAYNE BREWTON

Jalayne, of Chicago, is a 2004 graduate of Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences where she earned a 3.07 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 22 in her class of 107. Academic honors included the National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, and the National Honors Society of High School Scholars. Her high school activities included basketball, cross-country, Future Farmers of America, the school newspaper and yearbook. Jalayne has worked at the Oak Park and Chicago Park Districts. Her volunteer experience includes church activities, and working in various capacities such as a WTTW phone operator, teacher's aide, athletic scorekeeper and tutor. Jalayne is currently attending Illinois State University with aspirations of becoming a high school math teacher.



### WILLIAM BROWN

William, of Park Forest, is a 2005 graduate of Rich East High School where he earned a 4.04 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 13 in his class of 245. He is an Illinois State Scholar, National Honor Society member, and has been admitted to the Honors Program at Illinois State University. William's extensive community volunteer experience began at the age of 12 at the Park Forest Public Library, where he has been employed since 2002. He has received numerous awards during his involvement with the Business Professionals of America organization. William is a student at Chicago State University, majoring in elementary education with a minor in mathematics.



### MARILYN EASON

Marilyn, of Tinley Park is a 2005 graduate of Victor J. Andrew High School where she earned a 3.6 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 141 in her class of 609. She was on the High Honor Roll and received the Vocational

School Award from the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce. High school activities included class vice-president in her sophomore and junior years, President of DECA (a work study program), the Student Council, cross-country, track and Senior Class Council. Marilyn's volunteer activities included being a sponsor for "Help The Troops" DVD and CD fundraisers. She also served as a volunteer at a local retirement home. Marilyn has worked at Burlington Coat Factory, Dairy Queen, That Girl Boutique, and Dinolfo's Banquet Hall. She currently studies at Columbia University where she pursues a degree in fashion design.



### REBEKAH EHRLICH

Rebekah, of Crestwood, is a 2005 graduate of Alan Shepard High School where she earned a 3.8 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 62 in her class of 385. Her activities included the National Honor Society, Drama Club, President's Club, the Speech Team, school newspaper, and participation in 18 plays/productions. Her extensive volunteer experience includes mission trips to Arizona (Apache reservation) Portugal and Scotland, Vacation Bible Schools, Community Impact, Royal Family Kids Camp, and performing as a clown. Rebekah has worked at PetsMart, Absolute Vision Care, and as a swim teacher at Shepard High School. She now attends Vanguard University, majoring in theatre arts and communications. Ultimately, Rebekah would like to become an actress.



### KYLE FRANKLIN

Kyle, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy where he earned a 3.5 grade point average on a 5.0 system. He scored 28 on his ACT test. His high school activities included soccer, chess, drama, the school newspaper and literary magazine, the jazz band, book club, and the YMCA Youth & Government Program. Kyle worked at the Hot

Topic Department Store and Illinois PIRG. He is now a student at the University of Illinois-Chicago and majoring in pharmacy.



### JOSEPH GLENN

Joseph, from Schaumburg, is a 2005 graduate of Illinois Math and Science Academy where he earned a 3.13 grade point average on a 4.0 system and received an ACT score of 27. Academic honors include the Who's Who Among American High School Students, National Honor Roll, Presidential Classroom Scholar, National Society of High School Scholars, and the Global Young Leaders Scholar. He participated in track, the Student Council, the Environmental Club, and the African-American Student Association. Joseph volunteered for Habitat for Humanity for two years and is currently employed as a sales associate for UPS. With aspirations of becoming a lawyer, Joseph plans to eventually go to law school.



### ANITA GOMEZ

Anita, from Cicero, is a 2005 graduate of Morton East High School where she earned a 3.83 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 22 in her class of 930. Her academic honors included the National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, National Honor Roll, and achievement awards in math, American history, and economics. Anita's school activities included the Student Government, the Adventure Club, Piano Club, Science Club and the Parchment Literary Club. She has volunteered at the thrift store and a local nursing home. Anita now studies at Hyles-Anderson College, majoring in English. Her career goal is to be a high school English teacher.



### TIFFANY HILL

Tiffany, of Glenwood, is a 2005 graduate of Marion Catholic High School where she earned a 3.2 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 205 in her class of 443. She was a finalist for the Golden Apple Scholar award. Her school activities included choir, student aid, track, and the color guard. Tiffany was consecrated a junior deacon in her church. Her work experiences include Office Max, Popeye's and Oberweis Dairy. Tiffany now attends Northern Illinois University, majoring in primary education with hopes of becoming a teacher.

### ANGEL HOLLOWAY

Angel, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Harlan Community Academy High School where she earned a 3.6 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 11 in her class of 128. Academic honors include Who's Who Among American High School Students, the National Honor Society, Principal's Honor Roll and the Urban League award. Angel devoted her time to the Student Council, peer jury, the Licensed Practical Nurse Program, and the Violence Prevention Program. Her extensive volunteer experience includes the Ronald McDonald House, Halsted Terrace Nursing Home, and the SMART Program. Angel currently studies at Olive-Harvey College and majors in nursing.



### ADRIENNE JACKSON

Adrienne, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Kenwood Academy High School where she earned a 3.59 grade point average and ranked 35 in her class of 373. Her academic honors included the Spanish Honor Society and the Principal's Honor Roll. She participated on the math team and helped mentor underclass students. Adrienne was also a volunteer tutor at Bouchet Academy elementary school and worked at Gallery 37 and the United Center. She now attends the University of Illinois-Chicago, majoring in nursing.



## Scholarship winners, con't.



### CATHERINE KUE

Catherine, of Burr Ridge, is a 2005 graduate of Hinsdale South High School where she earned a 3.8 grade point average on a 4.0 system. In high school she participated in the National Art Society, the Art Club, the Key Club, and drama/theatre productions. She received recognition for her entries in the national art competition in Illinois. Catherine has been employed in several positions in the retail and food industries. As a volunteer, Catherine provided play production assistance to a local middle school. She is currently attending the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago.

### DAJAH LINDSEY

Dajah, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Simeon Career Academy where she earned a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 42 in her class of 309. She is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. She participated in the Senior Student Ambassador Program and the Student Council, and represented Simeon and Chicago Public Schools in several college fairs. Dajah was employed as an intern in the City of Chicago Law Department, and has done volunteer work at the South Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, as well as the Chicago Public Schools Reach Out and Teach Program. She now attends Chicago State University, majoring in biology/pre-medical. Her career goal is to become an urologist.



### REAL MASON

Real, from Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of South Shore High School where he earned a 3.7 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 6 in his class of 137. Academic honors included STRIVE STAR and the honor roll. While at South Shore, Real participated in the Chicago Math Science and Technology Academy (the school's honor program). Other activities included the Multimedia Club, World Language Decathlon Academic Club, and the Ski Club. Real also

volunteered as a Kids Start Program tutor. He plans to major in biological sciences at Northern Illinois University. Real wants to become a physical therapist.



### JON PIERRE MATTHEWS-EDWARDS

Jon Pierre, of Forest Park, is a 2004 graduate of St. Joseph High School where he earned a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 system, was on the honor roll, and was recognized in Who's Who Among American High School Students. High school activities included 4-H Club, Junior Gold Bowling, basketball, golf, tennis, and his church youth group. He has volunteered as a youth bowling coach and at the Muscular Dystrophy Association summer camp. Jon worked at the Riverside Golf Club and Sports Authority. An outstanding bowler, he participated at the USA Junior Olympic level in 2003. He currently attends Spoon River College and will transfer to Western Illinois University or Southern Illinois University for his last two years. His goals include becoming a businessman or professional bowler.

### RAUSHAWN REED

Raushawn, of Chicago, is a 2004 graduate of Morgan Park High School where she earned a 3.1 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 121 in her class of 318. She has worked at McDonald's and the Chicago Park District. Raushawn is currently attending Southern Illinois University where her academic honors include participation in the Honors Day Program and the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society. Her major is English education and she plans to become a teacher. Additionally, Raushawn wants to mentor inner-city students.



### **VICTORIA RODRIGUEZ**

Victoria, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Von Steuben Metro Science Center where she earned a 3.51 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 87 in her class of 256. Academic recognition included the honor roll, National Honor Roll, and Who's Who Among American High School Students. Victoria participated in the Student Council, the Photography Club, and the African-American Club. Her extensive volunteer activities included WTTW Channel 11, KidStart Chicago, Simeon Career Academy Library, a soup kitchen, and the St. Sabina Summer Camp. Victoria has worked at McDonald's, M & M Car Wash, and J Bees Sportswear. Now she is a student at the University of Illinois in Champaign, majoring in physical therapy.



### **CHRISTOPHER SMITH**

Christopher, of Chicago, is a 2005 graduate of Mount Carmel High School where he was an honor roll student. He earned a 3.53 grade point average on a 4.0 system while taking the most difficult courses in the curriculum. He participated in football, volleyball, track, the student council, the Environmental Club, and the Photography Club. His interest in computers and his love of math and science are the basis for his planned career in computer engineering. Since Christopher's freshman year at Mt. Carmel, he participated in several math and science programs offered by the University of Chicago in preparation for a career in computer and mechanical engineering. Christopher now is enrolled at the University of Illinois.

### **CHER TAYLOR**

Cher, now residing in Jackson, Mississippi, is a 2003 graduate of Argo High School where she earned a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 system. She is completing her sophomore year at Jackson State University where she has earned a 3.55 grade

point average on a 4.0 system and has been on the Dean's List for the past two years. Cher has been a volunteer tutor at Blackburn Middle School. Her work experience includes Summit Public Library, McCraney Family Chiropractic, Total Facilities Maintenance, and the Chicago Park District. She will receive her degree in business and administration in accounting and after an additional semester, she will receive a concentration in auditing.



### **ANEESHA TOLIVER**

Aneesha, of Washington D.C., is a 2004 graduate of Morgan Park High School where she was ranked 16 in her class of 320 and earned a 4.3 grade point average on a 4.0 system. She is listed in Who's Who Among American High School students and received awards at science fairs and an oratory contest while in high school. Her extracurricular activities included the Principal's Book Club, the Spanish Club, Key Club, and the Taekwondo Club. Aneesha has worked at McDonalds, Telenet & Associates, and Nationwide Americall. Her volunteer experiences included the Big Brother/Big Sister program, computer programming at her high school, and work at several hospitals. Currently attending Howard University in Washington D.C., Aneesha is pursuing a psychology major.



### **DEMETRIUS WADE**

Demetrius, of Harvey, is a 2005 graduate of Thornton High School where he earned a 3.8 grade point average on a 4.0 system and ranked 18 in his class of 398. Academic awards he earned include the National Honor Society and the high honor roll. He participated in baseball, band, wrestling, and the Upward Bound Program. Demetrius volunteered as a male mentor, tutored students at Thornton, and was active in the Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Additionally, he worked for the Family Centered Education Agency.

## Scholarship winners, con't.

He now is a student at the University of Illinois-Champaign, majoring in political science. Demetrius' ultimate goal is to become a corporate lawyer.

### DENISHIA YEARBY

DeNishia, of Skokie, is a 2005 graduate of Evanston Township High School where she earned a 3.15 grade point average on a 4.0 system and earned National Honor Society recognition. She also was a recipient of the NAACP Image Award. At Evanston, DeNishia devoted time to the pom squad, dance squad, choir and poetry writing. She participated in mission trips to Jamaica, Canada, and six states. Additional volunteer activities include Family Focus, World of Difference, Ebenezer AME Church Soup Kitchen, and Top Teens of America, Inc. DeNishia also worked at Osco Drug and the Wilmette Park District. She now attends Florida A & M, majoring in mass media communications. DeNishia wants to become a journalist.

## Cook North seeks parent input to training plans

Over the past several years, the region has had training teams at each Cook North office to focus on providing DCFS and private agency foster parents, staff and community members training on a variety of topics.

As of July, the three teams were combined into one that represents all of Cook North. Now, the region is looking for foster parents who may be interested in participating on the team. The team is comprised of foster parents, resource staff, LAN liaisons, licensing staff and permanency staff.

The team is responsible for identifying topics, locating speakers and hosting the trainings. Some upcoming topics may include:

- Confidentiality/conflict of interest.
- Sexually reactive children (how to address behavior)
- Alternatives to college/vocational schools (recommended for January, 2006)
- Changes in special education
- Post-adopt services
- Prostitution and violence among adolescents
- Gangs (recruitment, etc.)
- Behavior management

If you are interested in participating on the team, please contact either Lainie Gershon-Madio at 847-745-3063 or Iris Cuevas at 773-866-5680.

### Help develop Cook North Implementation Plan

In the month of October, the Cook North region will be hosting focus groups to review and revise the annual implementation plan for the Foster Parent Law. Copies of the region's plan were mailed to licensed caregivers in early September. Anyone interested in participating in a regional focus group, please contact Cheyenne Jones at 312-328-2481.

## Cook South support groups serving families in new ways

"Helping Families Cross Life's Bridges," is the mission of the new foster parent support group in the south suburbs, which began meeting in the Harvey Office in May. This group is aimed at foster families and birth families working together for the safety and well being of children. Therefore, the group is named, "The Foster Parent Peer Support Group." The group is open to all foster parents and parents who would like to attend. Each month the group will deal with issues or workshops that are important to parents raising children today.

Topics for the group thus far have included, Post Adoption Services and Support, Caring for the Mentally Challenged Child, and School Advocacy Fees and Services.

The next meeting is in October. The group will meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Harvey Office located at 15115 S. Dixie Hwy. For more information about this group, please contact Adrienne Taylor at 708-210-2800.

The DCFS Cook South Support Group that meets at the Emerald office on the second Tuesday of each month has also partnered with Metropolitan Family Services. That agency's support group and the Emerald office group will meet together quarterly. The theme of the June meeting was "Foster Parent Pride Jeopardy". The Jeopardy questions were taken from the Foster Parent Pride Curriculum. Points were accumulated for correct answers and prizes awarded to the winning teams. It was an exciting and fun evening for all.

The Metropolitan group meets monthly from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. It gives foster parents who work an opportunity to be involved in a support group. It is also open to all foster parents. Any foster parent interested in more information, or in joining an evening support group, should contact Rosie Starks at 773-371-3662. The Metropolitan Family Services Center is located at 235 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., Chicago.

The Cook South Region's Back-to-School Picnic in August was a fun way to end the summer and prepare for the new school year. Foster families enjoyed refreshments, games and entertainment. Thanks go to the DCFS staff, individuations and community organizations who donated time, funds and products to this event.



## Cook County Advocate

### Regional Reporters:

#### Cook North Sari Rowitz

312-328-2484 office  
312-328-2688 fax  
SRowitz@idcfs.state.il.us  
1911 S. Indiana Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60616

#### Cook Central Donna Cain

773-292-7937 office  
773-292-7861 fax  
DCain@idcfs.state.il.us  
3718 W. Division  
Chicago, IL 60651

#### Cook South Bobby Evans

773-371-6146 office  
773-371-6065 fax  
BEvans@idcfs.state.il.us  
6201 S. Emerald  
Chicago, IL 60621

Anyone can call the regional reporter with foster parent association news and schedules; local training notices; features on foster families and community members working for children; photos; and ideas for news articles or supportive services that would be helpful for caregivers to know.



# Cook County Training Calendar

## FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Trainings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

**Module 1** - *The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children* (Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

**Module 2** - *Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 3** - *Child Development* - New module being written

**Module 4** - *Child Sexual Development and Sexual Abuse* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 5** - *Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 6** - *Working as a Professional Team Member* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 7** - *Promoting Children's Personal & Cultural Identity* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 8** - *Promoting Permanency Outcomes* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 9** - *Managing the Fostering Experience* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 10** - *Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families* (Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

## Educational Advocacy

Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hrs.

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six-hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

### COOK NORTH

#### Association House (SPANISH)

Nov. 5 (Sat) 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### City Colleges of Chicago

Dec. 3 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

#### Uhlich Childrens' Advantage

Oct. 25 & 27 (Tue/Thu) 6-9 p.m.

### COOK CENTRAL

#### Circle Urban Ministries

Oct. 29 & Nov. 5 (Sat) 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

#### Sequin Services

Nov. 16 & 21 (Wed/Mon) 5:30-8:30 p.m.

### COOK SOUTH

#### DCFS, 6201 S. Emerald

Nov. 8 & 10 (Tue/Thu) 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Dec. 3 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

#### DCFS Harvey Area Office

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1 (Tue/Thu) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

#### Illinois Mentor, Madison

Oct. 1 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### COOK NORTH

#### Module

##### Irish American Heritage Center

Nov. 3, 8 & 10 6:30-9:30 p.m. 5  
(Tue/Thu)

##### Volunteers of America

Dec. 3 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 7

##### Uhlich Children's Advantage

Oct. 1 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 9

### COOK SOUTH

#### Module

##### FORUM

Dec. 6, 8, 13 & 15 6-9 p.m. 1  
(Tue/Thu)

##### Aunt Martha's Youth Services

Dec. 6, 8 & 13 6:30-9:30 p.m. 2  
(Tue/Thu)  
Oct. 11, 13 & 18 6:30-9:30 p.m. 6  
(Tue/Thu)

### COOK CENTRAL

#### Module

##### Lutheran Child & Family Services

Oct. 18, 20, 25 & 27 6:30-9:30 p.m. 1  
(Tue/Thu)

Oct. 4, 6 & 11 (Tue/Thu) 6:30-9:30 p.m. 4

##### Circle Urban Ministries

Oct. 3, 5 & 12 (Mon/Wed) 6:30-9:30 p.m. 2

All classes are coordinated by  
Harold Washington College in  
Chicago.

Call 312-553-5821 or -3031  
to register.

## Photographers have a heart to help children find families

The Heart Gallery is a unique photo exhibit featuring pictures of children who are in need of adoptive families. The Heart Gallery in Chicago brought together top-caliber professional photographers who donated their time and expertise to showcase children in a very special way. The photos will be displayed in the Chicago Children's Museum and then in other Chicago locations.

The Heart Gallery Gala Opening event is on November 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Children's Museum located at Navy Pier in Chicago. There is no charge to the public during that time. The exhibit will remain at the museum until November 6. During the weekend, coupons will be available for discounted admission. Contact DeAudrey Davis at the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 312-462-7273.